

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OIC-04 AID-20 SPM-01 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 SWF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /193 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8953

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECA, SPOP

SUBJECT: ECA CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE,
MAY 13 - 16, ADDIS ABABA

1. MEETING OPENED AT ECA HEADQUARTERS MAY 13 WITH SPEECHES BY
ECA EXECSEC GARDINER AND WPC SYG CARRILLO FLORES. OFFICERS
ELECTED: CHAIRMAN: DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH OF LIBERIA; VICE CHAIR-
MAN: REPRESENTATIVE OF UPPER VOLTA; AND RAPPORTEUR: REPRESENTATIVE
FROM NIGERIA.

2. TWENTY-FIVE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED, THREE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
OBSERVERS PRESENT FROM ROMANIA, SWEDEN, US AND SEVERAL SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES.

3. GARDINER IN OPENING SPEECH CITED AFRICA'S 400 MILLION POPULATION
WITH GROWTH RATE OF 2.9 PERCENT, PROJECTING POPULATION WOULD
DOUBLE AND RATE REACH 3.1 PERCENT BY 2,000. STATED, IN EFFECT, THIS
RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF AFRICA TO REACH DDI GNP GROWTH TARGET OF
3.5. PERCENT. GARDINER COMMENDED UN DRAFT WPPA AS BEING CONSIS-
TENT WITH BASIC RIGHTS OF MAN AND SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO TAKE
CARE OF SPECIAL SITUATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ENABLING
EACH WOMAN QTE TO HAVE CHILDREN BY CHOICE AND NOT BY CHANCE UNQTE.
STRONGLY SUGGESTED MEETING SHOULD ASSURE THAT PLAN CLEARLY SPELLS
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OUT ROLE WHICH GOVERNMENTS DESIRE ECA TO PLAY IN THIS AREA, IMPLY-

ING IT SHOULD BE STRONG ONE. HOPED MEETING WOULD SERVE TO IDENTIFY SPECIAL AFRICAN INTERESTS IN PLAN AND PREPARE GOVERNMENTS FOR FULL AFRICAN ROLE AT BUCHAREST.

4. CARRILLO FLORES IN OPENING STATEMENT REFERRED TO HIS CONSULTATION IN ADDIS AS "POLITICAL REGIONAL MEETING." IN GREETING REFERRED TO OAU SPECIFICALLY. HE CITED AFRICA'S ROLE IN SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO MAY 8 ECOSOC POPULATION RESOLUTION. LATER CITED THAT RESOLUTION REGARDING "MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS AND THOSE NATIONS DETERMINED BY ECOSOC TO ATTEND WPC."

5. CARRILLO FLORES TAILORED STANDARD SPEECH TO AFRICAN AUDIENCE, POINTING OUT DEMOGRAPHIC REALITIES OF AFRICA LESS WELL KNOWN THAN OTHER AREAS AND LIFE EXPECTANCY MUCH LOWER. THUS DRAFT PLAN MUST BE ADAPTABLE TO AFRICAN NEEDS. ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AFRICA NOT FINALLY INCLUDED IN PLAN CAN BE LATER TAKEN UP FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY ECA.

6. SAID BUCHAREST NOT BIRTH CONTROL CONFERENCE, BUT POPULATION CONFERENCE, AND MANY SOLUTIONS TO DIVERSE PROBLEMS. SUBSCRIBED TO SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF EVERY COUNTRY TO DECIDE OWN POPULATION POLICY. SAID POPULATION POLICIES WILL NOT WORK UNLESS OTHER STRATEGIES VIGOROUSLY PURSUED. INVOKED HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDING RIGHT OF COUPLES TO DETERMINE NUMBER AND SPACING OF CHILDREN. CONCLUDED BY SAYING PLAN CAN AND PROBABLY WILL BE MODIFIED AT BUCHAREST. MADE PLEA TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO MAKE VOICE AND OPINIONS CLEARLY HEARD AT BUCHAREST.
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